

HONORARIA FOR 2012

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Blog: <http://CivilOfficiant.com>
URL: <http://GetMarriedNY.com>

Standard Ceremony: A standard ceremony includes the couple's choice of ceremony (non-religious or spiritual). For weddings, it includes the ability to select from various options with only the following changes: the inclusion of personal vows, a favorite reading, and/or rite. On occasion, a witness may be provided for true elopements in her office or North Forest Park. Naturally, always automatically included is the post-ceremony license filing. Standard ceremonies range from \$250 to \$350, depending on the location and timing.

Personalized / Customized Ceremony: A personalized or customized ceremony is an entirely unique ceremony. The couple sends anecdotes, memories, what they love about each other, quotes, concepts, rites, vows, and anything else to the officiant at least one month prior to their ceremony. From there, the officiant drafts a ceremony for their review. Always automatically included is the license filing, if needed. Examples of segments from personalized ceremonies can be found in the archives of her blog via the side-bar categories. Personalized ceremonies range from \$375 to \$500 depending on the location and timing.

The outline above covers any kind of ceremony, including weddings, vow renewals, commitment / betrothal / engagement ceremonies, baby welcomings, and other rites. Funerals are on a donation basis only unless the site requires extensive traveling.

Due to the volume of ceremonies handled and to keep her honorarium competitive, Judie is not scheduling wedding ceremony planning meetings, although informal counseling upon booking is fine. However, she responds to e-mail rather promptly (NewYorkOfficiant@gmail.com). By phone, weekdays are the best time to call (347-248-6294), but Judie does perform many weekday weddings too, so do not panic if she does not pick-up immediately.

As with any vendor, an agreement and retainer exchanged is the path to a ceremony arranged. While I may still be available for your ceremony without a retainer, no guaranteed reservation will exist. Retainers are \$150 via mailed agreement with check or digital invoice with credit/debit card. The balance is due on the day-of.

Other Service (only upon specific request—never assumed)

Photography + Officiant

These rates include Judie's officiant services plus photography with an online gallery of downloadable images given 14-28 days after the session. Having signed well over 150 licenses, Liam is also an expert witness-signer. The time may divided in any way desired by the couple, but transportation to and from various sites must be provided to maximize photo opportunities. Most receive 30-60 images per hour with the exact number dependent on the couple's comfort level with the camera and other circumstances, such as the weather. Examples of Liam's work can be found at both <http://CivilOfficiant.com> (slide-shows) and <http://PhotographybyLiam.com>.

North Forest Park:

- ceremony plus digital photography (\$250)
- ceremony plus analog/film photography (\$375)

Central Locations in Five Boroughs:

- ceremony plus digital photography for up to three hours (\$1000)
- ceremony plus analog photography for up to three hours (\$1500)

Outer Regions of Five Boroughs, Nassau, or Westchester:

- ceremony plus three hours of digital photography (\$1250)
- ceremony plus three hours of analog photography (\$1750)

Note that analog/film photography is still photography, but the old-fashioned kind—the type where Liam uses physical film to capture the image versus capturing an image electronically. It is not videography—a series of constantly moving images. The vast majority today opt for digital wedding photography for its cost and convenience. All digital images are high resolution: you can make wall-size prints, if you'd like, although most do not make prints larger than 16x20 (mantle size).

Alternative Photographers

If Liam is not available or you prefer someone else, Judie also suggests the following photographers: Aga Images, Photo Pink, Jen Huang, Ryan Brenizer, Kim Coccagnia, Julie Newman, and Lauren Boyd, among many others. Michael Chadwick and Katie Jane are wonderful and more affordable options. As a general rule, any photographer that can work with film/analog, even if they don't use film at your wedding, is likely a great choice.

Overview of Terms and Conditions

I promise these terms contain nothing strange or unusual. They are mostly to make sure we understand each other's expectations and to comfort those who like legalese.

1. As per New York State Domestic Law, the couple shall be responsible for securing the marriage license when a public record of their license is necessary. The couple is also generally responsible for ensuring the presence of at least one adult witness during the ceremony, for sobriety of the witness, for the signing of the license in a timely manner after the ceremony concludes, and the safety of the license until it reaches the officiant. The officiant shall be responsible for properly and promptly filing the marriage license, as per New York State Domestic Law. Once documented, the Clerk mails a certificate to the address given by the couple in two to eight weeks with one month as the average. In the highly unlikely even that any problem should arise with the license, such an act of nature or other true disaster, that prevents the license from reaching the officiant or the proper authority, the couple shall secure a duplicate license, which the officiant shall also complete and file promptly and properly with the Clerk's office. The officiant shall not release personal information disclosed on the license, except for perhaps first names or initials in a blog entry, to any third party.
2. The couple has enlisted the services of the officiant for the location, date, and time listed above. Changes may or may not be accommodated. If the ceremony begins more than thirty minutes after the anticipated time, the officiant may not be able to stay, and the couple will forfeit the retainer and/or balance. In the highly unlikely event that the officiant arrives fifteen minutes past the anticipated start-time due to negligence on her part, the officiant shall perform the service and make financial amends in the form of discounting the balance or offer another agreeable means of reparation.
3. The couple forfeits the right to any retainer / balance contributed if they cancel. Unless an act of nature or disaster prevents the officiant's attendance at the appointed ceremony, the officiant shall refund any retainer / balance if she cancels due to a non-emergency reason or supply a substitute registered officiant.
4. The officiant shall be held harmless for any ceremony disruption. Rescheduling due to tardiness or cancellation is possible, per the officiant's discretion, with the retainer and/or balance paid acting as a credit so long as all parties pick a mutually convenient new ceremony site, date, and time.
5. Officiant retains the right not to marry a couple if she witnesses abuse or when consent is not forthcoming.
6. It is in the best interests of the couple to share their love story at least one month prior to the ceremony so the officiant gets to know the couple better. However, this is not at all mandatory.
7. The honorarium includes travel expenses, unlimited phone and e-mail correspondence, the performance of a non-religious/civil/humanist ceremony or spiritual ceremony, and the license filing. Upon request, it includes a packet of vow samples, as well as a packet of 250+ reading examples. It does not include a

“cut and paste” ceremony e-mailed by the couple, the officiant's presence at a separate rehearsal, or other meetings unless the couple requests informal counseling.

8. Upon request, couples may also receive the benefit of a sample program outline within seven days of any request; a sample processional order within seven days of any request; the inclusion of up to three favorite readings, personal vows, and up to two rites; e-mailed keepsake certificates to print; and the officiant's arrival up to one hour before the start-time of the ceremony to coordinate with other vendors and the wedding party.
 9. The officiant is responsible for providing an amiable ceremony, including overall politeness and kindness to the couple regardless of their background(s). The couple is responsible for providing an amiable and safe environment for the ceremony. Normally, the couple also provides any ingredients for rites.
 10. For a sense of the deportment and countenance of the officiant, including photos and videos, the couple should review her blog (<http://CivilOfficiant.com>) and/or website (<http://GetMarriedNY.com>).
 11. The couple recognizes that since the officiant travels to their site, they are both free to choose and thereby are responsible for location arrangements. The couple agrees to indemnify the officiant from any claims, damages, actions that may arise from the ceremony location, other vendors, or guests.
 12. The couple is responsible for all other wedding plans, including, but not limited to, flowers, music, attire, and reception needs.
 13. Subject to availability and only upon specific request, the officiant may be able to provide a witness. An amateur video may also be available upon request. Travel expenses for the witness may apply.
 14. All parties recognize and respect the validity of personal and professional copyrights for imagery and the written word.
 15. The contribution and acceptance of a retainer with full wedding information provide will effectuate the terms of this agreement.
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16. **Applicable only with photography:** Sessions include the knowledge, experience, and professional equipment of the photographer, as well as the sorting and general retouching of images per the photographer's discretion. About 14-28 days after the session, couple will receive an online gallery of downloadable images. They are free to download the images onto a CD and order prints using a reputable lab of their choice. For now, the gallery into which they may invite friends will be kept for at least six months. Liam retains the copyrights technically, but couple can print and share the images for personal purposes as much as desired. Most receive about 20-30 images for office sessions and 30-60 images hourly for sessions elsewhere. If the couple is late, the allotted time for the session will still hold due to schedule constraints.

LINKS

[New York State General License Information](#)

[NYC Marriage Bureau // NYC Clerk's Office](#)

[Judie's NYC Officiant Registration Certificate](#)